Nation
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We would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended the 'Grand Opening' of R&D Eenou Lumber in the community of Mistissini. It was a wonderful and fun day and we are looking forward to offer the best service to all our clients.

We also want to take this opportunity to wish the entire Cree nation a

Happy Aboriginal Day on June 21st.

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Eastmain workcamp is proud to be involved in activities related to National Aboriginal Day. On this special day for our Native partners, we will be enjoying a show by Cree singer-songwriter-composer, Melisa Pash.

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Best wishes for National Aboriginal Day

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editorial

The spirit of the Mohawks

By Steve Bonspiel

The Mohawk protest at Caledonia, Ontario brought back memories of another incident that is still fresh in the minds of most Aboriginals.

In 1990, a small group of Kanesatake Mohawks set up a non-threatening, side-of-the-road camp to halt the Oka golf club's proposed expansion onto their land. If plans had proceeded, Kanesatake's sacred burial ground would have been replaced by another nine holes. It would have been another slap in the face to Canada's First People and an insult to the many Mohawk generations who lay peacefully beneath the soil.

After a botched Surete du Quebec raid and an unfortunate fatality on the side of the police, the bulldozers were called off and the Mohawks had won.

Ottawa should have learned something from that time, but Caledonia tells us that the government has forgotten the lessons of 1990.

The Mohawks of Six Nations claim a 500-unit construction site as land that was illegally taken from them in the early 1800s. The government says that the Mohawks deeded the land to them under a signed agreement. The land in question was part of a much larger tract awarded to the Mohawks, the Nation most loyal to the British in the war with France. As of 2006, the Six Nations Mohawks are left with little territory and cannot afford to lose anymore.

An old government trick is to allow development on land in question and then if the claim is settled in favour of the Natives, the government will turn around and say, "Sorry, there are people already living there so you can't."

Their protest has been met with police force and has resulted in clashes with angry non-native locals. At press time, the protestors had taken down the barricade and were looking forward to "healing the wounds" caused by the three-month protest.

The easiest answer to this problem would be to give the land back to the people and have the government compensate the developer for their loss. Simple, yet it won't happen.

At one point, the Mohawks owned over nine-and-a-half million square acres of land in what is now New York State and southern Canada. Today, we are left with a tiny fraction of that total.

The Mohawk protestors do not erect barricades to cause trouble; they do it to raise awareness to their plight. Soon they won't have any land left to live on, then where do they go?

The Mohawk people were hunters and gatherers who lived off the land by farming and fishing and killing big game. These days when they want meat, they go to the butcher. The luxury of hunting on territory they can call their own is gone.

A shrinking land base and lack of true power over that land puts the Mohawks in a precarious situation. They have nothing left to lose, so why not fight for what is rightfully theirs in the first place?

Even after the 1990 crisis, Ottawa and Quebec promised to return the land to Kanesatake Mohawks. To this day the land in question remains "Crown land" where the Mohawks have no real power on it.

Over 60 per cent of Native people are under the age of 25. With the exploding Aboriginal populations comes the need for bigger territory, and if the government won't keep its promises and negotiate in good faith, they have no alternative but to fight to get back what is and always has been theirs.

Caledonia reminds us that the Canadian government, despite its condemnation of other infamous human rights abusers like China, still has a long way to go before First Nations will fully trust it and before it can be considered fair to Aboriginal peoples.

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on the cover

Photo: Danielle Valade

Design: Martin Dubé

rez notes

Longest day, toughest sleep

The best part about National Aboriginal Day in the past was that it was fishing day. Since it was also the longest day of the year, naturally, it was the longest day of the year to go fishing.

One year, we combined fishing with some twilight duck hunting and, on day two of our excursion out on James Bay, seal hunting. The light reflecting from the many ice floes that nudged against our freight canoe combined with sub tropical heat turned my hunting mode into power snooze mode. The resulting reverberation from my snorting and snoring scared the lucky seal away. I, meanwhile, slept sitting up in the canoe and numbly conversing with whoever else was in the canoe, and can vaguely remember shooting my gun at some ripple in the calm water.

Later, we met up with land and slept all afternoon in the tall grass, oblivious to the nosey mice that scampered around, checking out the snoring giants in some weird Lilliputian manner. Back on the canoe and back to the stream we fished the day before to continue our quest for protein. After catching a few hundred trout, we checked the nets and pulled in more bounty from the sea. A ton of caviar and fish guts were processed, the packaging of our catch into the packed sweet grass that lined the shore finished off another 20-hour sun fest.

We readied for bed as a storm brewed and mosquitoes, repelled by a combination of sun toughened skin and DDT, buzzed angrily and incessantly, occasionally inhaled by a deep snoring human. The cacophony of slumbers competed with the thunderclaps and constant rain and flapping canvas to made it easy to sleep, except for one particular snorer whose emanations ignited such violence that it seemed to shake the very ground we slept on.

Birds twittered and sunlight resumed with the rains early in the morning and a shotgun blast just feet away from our sleeping heads jarred us into combat mode. The tent flap aside, we see Buddy coolly inspecting the small bear lying lifeless on the wet ground. The carnivore ursus had eaten hundreds of fish all night long and could not move, its belly bloated with our processed fish.

Buddy indicated that he deserved to be shot and eaten. Later that day, black bear meat was cooking in every way possible. Minding that no flesh go bad on such hot and sweltering weather, all meat became fodder for our stomachs. Wiping the greasy remains off our faces, we headed back to the stream to lure more trout into our waiting barbs and line.

Today, National Aboriginal Day remains one of the most productive days for wildlife harvesting. With this in mind, I think that the day should be a time to not just reflect upon our culture and traditions, but a day to practice them, a day to harvest and feast on the spring catch. One day I'll go back to that stream and fish for trout and hunt for ducks and seals, but this time around, I'll carry plenty of strong coffee.

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Canada

Odawa kicks off powwow season

Photos and Story by Steve Bonspiel

Powwow season in Canada kicked off last week with the 30th annual Odawa powwow, May 26-28 in Ottawa.

And what a start it was! The beautiful weather was shining down on spectators and the colorful dancers and Indian tacos were a big hit all around.

Touted as the first powwow of the season, the Odawa entry is somewhat quaint and in an out-of-the-way location at Ottawa's Municipal Campground, 20 minutes out of the city itself. It is attended by over 18,000 people each year and is a sure sign of impending summer weather.

The Odawa powwow is put on by the Odawa Native Friendship Centre and was started as a means for urban Aboriginals to re-connect with their roots, no matter how far away from their territory they are.

Former Grand Council Deputy Chief Paul Gull was on hand with his wife Stella.

He told the Nation that he usually attends the powwow each year but this year was extra special because two children from Eeyou Istchee had their walking-out ceremony. Although Gull admitted he missed that part, he did show up for the feast afterwards.

"I found the powwow a little small this year," said Gull, who is working on the illegal squatters file for the Grand Council, among other things.

Innu artist Richard Fontaine was also on hand. His work is renowned in Native circles and he has been invited once again at the end of the year to display his work at the Louvre in Paris.

Dancers of all ages competed for the various prizes that ranged in category from the Women's fancy shawl dance, to the men's grass dance, all the way to the golden age dancers (45 and up) and back down to the baby roots; the tiny tots (0-6) exhibition and the boys and girls competition (7-12).

Sheri Jerome, an Algonquin from Kitigan Zibi, was there with her three-year-old son Tavynn. He could be considered a veteran of the little ones as he has been dancing since before he could walk. "He started dancing when he was six months old and he only started walking at nine months," his beaming mother told the Nation.

They follow the powwow trail every summer. Although he cannot compete because of his age, Tauynn still dances and wows the spectators at every turn.

"The first powwow he went to was in Cutler, Ontario, at the Serpent River First Nation," Jerome said.

At the Odawa powwow last year Tavynn caught the eye of the judges and the next day they awarded him a special accolade called the expedition prize

because of his exceptional dancing and regalia.

"It's in him," said his proud mom who used to dance herself. "It inspires him. He loves to be at powwows and even when there is no music, he dances."

"Pride," she replied when asked what she gets out of seeing her son dance. "I can't describe it; it's an amazing moment. I'm speechless. It's such an overwhelming feeling to see him dancing. I can see the pride in his eyes."

Je voudrais profiter de cette journée des autochtones pour souhaiter à la Nation Crie ainsi qu'à toutes les Nations autochtones qu'elles puissent être reconnue en tant que Nation par le gouvernement fédéral. Je crois en l'importance des liens chaleureux entre les cultures et serai toujours le défenseur de vos intérêts à Ottawa.

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Mes meilleurs vœux vous accompagnent à l'occasion de la Journée nationale des Autochtones. Cette journée est un moment privilégié pour célébrer votre histoire et votre héritage culturel tout en continuant à bâtir un avenir de qualité.

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First People's Festival visually stunning

16th edition opens with Inuit art exhibit

By Steve Bonspiel

After anxious moments, a late start and high humidity, the 16th edition of the First People's Festival in Montreal finally got under way – and it was worth the wait.

The festival marked its grand opening with an exhibition by 11 Inuk artists from Inuvik on May 25. The vernissage was double headed as the Canadian Guild of Crafts is also celebrating its 100th year of existence.

This years' display, entitled Metamorphosis, was aiming to be different right from the start. The sculptures the Guild had in its possession before this exhibit were small in size. But according to Curator Maurice Achard, "we asked our guests to create a second work of art, much more modest in scale in contrast to Metamorphosis, but just as important in quality. We wanted to establish the origins and evolution of contemporary Inuit art," he said.

The sculptors used old Inuit lore to express themselves. In one piece by Inukjuak artist Lucassie Echalook that impresses with its size and detail, a large and very strong Inuk battles a giant, or, as they say in Inuktitut, a Tuniq. In another piece by Joanasi Jack Ittukallak, a Shaman mother and her children catch a seal, but without a knife or an ulu to strip the animal, they turn into bears to devour it.

The pieces range in price from a several hundred dollars to $13,000 and are available for purchase by the public.

Mattiusi Iyaituk from Inujivik was one of the more prominent artists on display. His work included a visually interesting sculpture of owls, which are all connected as one and can only be differentiated through their eyes.

His best creation, however, is "an Angakoq (Shaman) with skinny arms is possessed by the animals of the sea," according to the description.

Made of soapstone with caribou antlers as arms, and various other materials, including serpentine, fur around its neck and a musk ox horn, the sculpture grabs your attention immediately for its beauty and for its quirky look. It is Inuit art, but not like anything we're used to seeing.

Iyaituk explained his work of art to the Nation. "Shaman were the leaders in my culture before Christianity," he said. "When Christianity was introduced to my culture, Shamanism was banned, so it went underground. That part of my culture has disappeared, so I try to keep it alive by doing Shamanic sculptures.

"When I was 14 I did my first sculpture with a piece of stone that came from my older brothers' work," said Iyaituk. "I picked it up and worked on it

For 10 years

Eleven nations are celebrating!

Geoffrey Kelley
Minister for Native Affairs

Ten years have gone by since June 21st, the day of the summer solstice, was declared National Aboriginal Day. For these peoples, recognized for their rich traditions, the summer solstice is a festival of light. According to aboriginal tradition, on this day, the longest of the year, people can gather the strength, wisdom and energy needed for any achievement.

Let's take advantage of National Aboriginal Day to pay tribute to the First Nations and the Inuit and, in so doing, to underscore their important contribution to Québec society. The festivities that are being held across Québec allow us to celebrate the culture and heritage of the Aboriginal peoples.

As Minister for Native Affairs, I wish to express my best wishes to the eleven Aboriginal nations of Québec.

gkelley

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and happened to sell it for $2."

Iyaituk, 55, said that in the early days, becoming an artist was not something he thought he would do. "Before becoming an artist, I was a policeman. My father had a heart condition and the doctor told him not to make him worry about me. So I quit my job so he wouldn't worry. Then my only option was to become an artist. In 1980 I had my first solo exhibition in San Francisco."

Iyaituk has exhibited his work in many places around the world, including Taiwan, Mexico, the former West and East Germany and Switzerland.

The most he has earned by selling his art was $10,000 for an installation of work, which contained several pieces in the same theme. That display depicted the four seasons and was made in a school in Nunavik.

Iyaituk's work is on display in permanent exhibitions across the country, including the National Gallery in Ottawa, the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal and the Museums of Civilization in Quebec City and Ottawa.

His advice for aspiring Michelangelos out there is to show some pizazz. "If you want to be an artist, you can do it. Don't put yourself down and think you can't. You don't know what you can do until you try," he said. "Find a different form of artwork. Don't do your work like everyone else is doing; make it distinct."

Iyaituk said he only keeps little pieces of his artwork as mementos for his wife of 32 years.

After a presentation from the various heads of the festival and the Guild, the audience was treated to something special. Two young Inuk throat singers took the stage and dazzled everyone with their awesome esophagi.

Akinisie Sivuarapik has been throat singing for 18 years, since she was 6. She told the Nation that it means a lot for her to continue her grandmother's tradition.

"My mother never really did it," she said. "It was kind of lost for a generation in our family so my grandmother really wanted me to learn."

She talked about the days of old when Inuit women would use throat singing as a means to compete for various things such as clothing or other materials.

"To me throat singing represents the earth, the water, the animals, everything," said Sivuarapik, who hails from Puvirnituq, but currently lives in Montreal.

Festival President Andre Dudemaine was elated at the turnout. "I'm very happy to see so many people and I'm looking forward to the rest of the festival."

Metamorphosis will be on display at the Canadian Guild of Crafts at 1460 Sherbrooke Street West until June 30. The First People's Fest runs until the end of June as well, for more information check out www.nativelynx.ca.

in brief

Grand Chief is hospitalized

Cree Grand Chief Matthew Mukash checked himself into the Montreal General Hospital May 24 to treat what doctors diagnosed as internal bleeding. The Grand Chief thought he was suffering from diarrhea and went to the hospital as a precaution.

"He's recovering well," said Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff. "From what his family told me it's related to his pills. They caused internal bleeding. He's in stable condition right now and is his regular self."

The prognosis is good for a full recovery, but further tests will determine the exact cause of the bleeding.

"At this time there is nothing new I call say. He was in good spirits and he told us to continue what we're doing."

In the meantime, Iserhoff went on the radio to alleviate any fears people might have and is taking on most of Mukash's meetings. "I suspect he'll be out sometime this week, but for now it's business as usual for us."

The Nation has won 1st Place for BEST AD.
"The Nation's Firefighters Challenge – nice layout. Overall very eye catching."

We at the Nation take great pride in creating outstanding customized ads for our clients and we are proud to receive this award. You, our clients, mean a lot to us and we know you will keep trusting our sales and design team for all your future advertising needs. Both the Nation and our clients have contributed to win this award. We will continue to give you the same great service that you have received in the past in the years to come.

The Nation has won 1st Place for BEST SPECIAL SECTION for its special issue on Residential Schools.

Judge Brenda O' Farrell, Montreal Guzette: "It (the Nation) presented a very important and complicated topic in – on one hand – a very personal context and – on the other hand – in a historical framework. This approach effectively illustrated how both individuals and the community have been scarred. The reader cannot but gain a broader understanding of this issue that has been in the news for a long time." Congratulations to all the staff writers and others who came together to make this special issue not only one to remember but a winner. One judge remarked it was miles ahead of the competition. We will continue to follow this issue and others like here at the Nation.

The Nation takes Quebec by storm!

Newspaper picks up 7 Quebec Community Newspaper Awards

The Nation wins two awards at the Canada Cmmunity Newspapers Association.

1st Place best columnist goes to Neil Diamond. 2nd Place best environmental writing goes to Lyle Stewart and Will Nicholls.

The Nation picked up seven awards at the Quebec Community Newspapers' Association awards ceremony in Pointe Claire on May 19, including four first place tallies!

The Nation got off to a great start when Editor Will Nicholls picked up first place for Best Business Story. Ten categories later, Steve Bonspiel picked up first place for Best Education Story.

Nicholls won for his breakdown of the $70 million annual disbursement and the problems that come with it. The judge for Best Business Story, Lois Tuffin from Ontario's Lindsay This Week, wrote: In a gutsy story, Will Nicholls delves into how a shrinking federal funding agreement endangers Cree culture and causes dissension in the community. That earned him first place.

Bonspiel won for his in-depth look at the Cree Health Board and Cree School Board's collaboration with elders on creating new Cree medical terms. Tuffin was also the judge for this entry and wrote: Steve Bonspiel's account of 'Cree-ating' new words get to the essence of education – elders and younger generations working together to teach each other. The idea, and the story about it, are beautiful.

The magazine also picked up first place for Best Ad and Best Special Section.

The Best Special Section award was given to the Nation for the portrayal of the residential school era and its affects on the Cree Nation and Native people as a whole.

The judge, Brenda O'Farrell of the Montreal Gazette wrote: The Nation's residential school issue presented a very important and complicated topic in – on the one hand – a very personal context and – on the other – in a historical framework. This approach effectively illustrated how both individuals and the community have been scarred. The reader cannot but gain a broader understanding of this issue that has been in the news for a long time.

Will Nicholls and Lyle Stewart's piece on the Oujé-Bougoumou contamination story took home second place for Best Investigative/In-Depth.

Steve Bonspiel rounded out the awards with second place for the Bob Phillips Award for Best General Editorial for a look into David Ahenakew's racist comments last year about Jews, and third place for the Best Municipal/Civic Affairs. Below is the complete list of Nation winners.

The Nation staff:
First place, Best Ad
First place, Best Special Section

Will Nicholls:
First place, Best Business Story

Second place, (with Lyle Stewart) Best Investigative/In-Depth story

Steve Bonspiel
First place, Best Education Story
Second place, Best General Editorial (Bob Phillips)
Third place, Best Municipal/Civic Affairs

A big thank you goes out to our readers who have made our success possible! For more information on the awards, go to www.qcna.org.

Outstanding Columnist: Neil Diamond

1st Place

Judged by David Cadogan

Judges comments: "First the bad news: some editors seem determined to speed the demise of the community newspaper.

There are still a great many columns that have nothing to do with local issues, events or people. Why? Keep it local! You have a monopoly on local. You can be unique.

Some courage and upstream think-ing do an audience more good than catering to its popular prejudice and conventional wisdom. Populist reac-tionary posturing is not productive.

Now for the good news: the best columnists are getting even better and there is a new generation of writers bringing exciting new styles and ideas to their audiences.

This year's winner of the George Cadogan Memorial Outstanding Columnist Award and the $500 cash award is Ndiamon, in the James Bay the Nation. He skewers First Nations and other governments and agencies and greedy, manipulative, leaders in a traditional aboriginal style of gentle but deadly humour. His imagery is almost poetic. He is exactly the kind of champion First Nations readers need and to which non-aboriginals should have access."

Our thoughts exactly, as here at the Nation, we have always been open to the many viewpoints Crees have expressed. The judge also said Neil's work was brilliant and he should write more often. We will encourage him to do so.

opinion

The Last Line

By Ndiamon

I was already at work, in search of material, a subject, some serious insider info and in need of a cool, cheap drink when I bumped into a Cree politician at a Native bar late at night in downtown Montreal. It's the kind of bar where the two-piece band will dedicate a song like Folsom Prison Blues to those "who just got out of jail."

I had heard from a reliable source that former national chief, Dr. Matthew Coon Come, is bored and is dropping out of Bible college… and seriously eyeing the office of Cree Grand Chief. Speculation that this might just happen has been going around ever since Phil Fontaine gave Coon Come a national ass whuppin. Don't you just love Native politics?

Mr. X denied any knowledge of whether Mr. Coon Come was actually running for Grand Chief against Dr. Moses this coming fall. I prodded and successfully had him confess that if that were the case, he would vote for Moses.

Why? I asked dumbfounded. A career politico, he ducked and weaved for an instant until I reminded him it was off the record. "Moses," he said. "He's more intelligent. Have you ever seen Coon Come being asked an impromptu question by reporters without the help of consultants? He fumbles."

I was astonished. I'd always figured Coon Come to be quicker, more secure, confident and savvy politically than the seemingly uncouth and unsophisticated Moses. Here was this guy, a Cree player for many years, in the know, well liked and trusted by the old boys' network, telling me that Coon Come was a mere Muppet. That he was only spouting phrases and lines supplied by the very Grand… Council's hired guns. I, of course, hid the shock and awe I felt and changed the subject even as I nodded in agreement. The waitress came by our table for last call. I hesitated, hoping he'd offer to pay for a round. But he ordered a beer only for himself. All the respect he'd earned as a result of our little exchange went poof!

Montreal, my town, reeks of Cree politicians. Walk down St. Catherine Street and you'll know they are there, blocks ahead of you, by spotting the bulge in the back pocket. Every other meeting involving important and not-so-important Cree issues convenes here. Lowly hotel staff are on a chummy first-name basis with many a Cree player. Downtown restaurants depend and survive on Cree appetites. Seedy looking characters deliver mysterious packages late at night to expensive hotel suites. Bored yet porn-worthy barmaids perk up and smile widely when they espy a powerful, moneyed and over-tipping Cree regular strutting into their bar.

"Mr. This. Mr. That. Chief So and So! It's sooooo good to see you again. Will it be the usual then? And how, pray tell, are the wife and kids in James Bay? They are in James Bay, right?"

Meanwhile, at a lesser, grungier venue down the street, a chief from the Attikamek or the Algonquin nation stands in line at the coat check mentally calculating his pittance of a per diem, tip on a pitcher of beer and the inevitable lonely cab ride to some cheap motel. Unnoticed, forgotten and ignored by the big-haired blonde he's entrusted his jacket with. "And you are? Oh right. That'll be $20, sir."

"Maudite Crisse!" he mutters as he nurses his cheap warm beer.

The Cree Nation is both blessed, and cursed, with colorful, charismatic and of course allegedly corrupt politicians aplenty. It comes with the territory. Millions in the accounts and millions more practically guaranteed by the Crown and Quebec's equivalent. Rare is the Cree who won't succumb to power's temptations and pleasures. It might be a scientific fact. There should be a study done.

Anyway, the fact that the incorruptible Coon Come flubs his lines when questioned by reporters won't matter to the Cree electorate. They don't care for things like that. What matters to them is which candidate looks good, sounds great on the radio and has a sterling reputation. Cree journalists, with few exceptions, don't always ask the tough questions anyway.

He would be a tough challenger for Moses, who probably lies awake at night hoping and praying that Coon Come earns his divinity doctorate and becomes a preacher in Mistissini instead. Saving souls instead of saving per diems. Come to think of it, he probably hopes and prays that Mukash and Gull also enter the fray, thereby splitting the vote and giving him a bigger chance of winning. I foresee a vicious four-way battle this fall. Ass whuppins galore for all of us to enjoy. Let the games begin.

And that, until the next time, is the last line.

Best Business Story- QCNA
1st Place Will Nicholls

Judges comments: In a gutsy story, Will Nicholls delves into how a shrinking federal funding agreement endangers Cree culture and causes disention in the community. That earned him first place."

IT'S $70 MILLION TIME

by Will Nicholls

news

It's another fiscal year and another $70 million is being pumped into the Cree economy through the Paix des braves Agreement. Even though there are a lot of happy faces in Eeyou Istchee, some have those smiles upside down.

Part of the reason is that $2 million has been cut from the amount budgeted for the Cree Regional Authority (CRA). Last year, the CRA received $10 million; this year, $8 million. This money is to cover Quebec government obligations now administered by the CRA. Most of the funds are redistributed to such organizations as the Cree Trappers Association, JBCCS, Youth Council, Elders Council, Wasasibi Corporation, Cree Outfitting and Tourism, Cree Development Corporation fund and others.

The Cree Trappers Association (CTA) is another organization not smiling as much as they would wish. The CTA received $2 million, the same amount as last year. But the CTA's Thomas Coon told the Nation that amount is still far below what the organization needs and that they expect to have to tighten their belts once again.

"With the first $70 million last year we asked for a little over $6 million," Coon explained. "This year we asked for a little over $7 million because the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) funding, which used to solely come from Quebec, terminates this year. With the M.O.U. monies we used to do the cabin program and buy bush radios with that. We looked at some capital expenses and office facilities. That was all under the MOU funds. That's why we needed to increase to $6-7 million under the second $70 million request. Cutting $2 million is not good news at all."

The CTA will be looking very carefully at all Cree Agreements and funding sources in order to be less dependent on the Paix des braves funding. "This is so we don't rely on the $70 million alone. I had hoped that the CTA would have had a brighter light at the end of the tunnel but instead we found a small candle."

Another disappointed organization is the Elders Council. "I don't know how many times in the past we asked for money so we can help and give the Youth direction," said Robbie Matthews Sr.

He sees the youth as wanting to find themselves through Cree culture and that it is the responsibility of the Elders to help make this happen. He said the youth have many problems in the daily life of the communities but, "when they go out on the land they find that they're more at peace. They're happy there and that's where they can find spiritual healing. They want to be able to go on the canoe excursions every summer. That's where they'll find what they're searching for. That's why we need more money, it's for these kinds of things."

Matthews says it cost $45,000 for one meeting alone between the Elders and the youth. Matthews says the budget for the Youth and Elders Councils should be around $400,000 each from the fund. The Youth Council and the Elders Council will each receive $100,000 for this with no changes from last year.

Then, of course, there is the Cree Development Corporation. It was one of the selling points of the Paix des braves agreement. It was referred to as the new economic engine of the Cree Nation. It would be something that would replace the now defunct SODAB. It gets a yearly sum of $350,000 a year from agreement monies. That piddling amount won't even gas up the "economic engine of the Cree Nation," much less get the motor running.

In all the years since the agreement was signed, no loans have been made to any Cree business, organization, person or persons wanting to start up a business. Apparently no one has even been named to head up the CDC.

To make matters worse, most of the organizations who received money aren't really sure of the protocol needed in order to make a request to access funding from the Paix des braves Agreement. They know though they have to submit proposals and budgets. One of them commented that the chiefs and the communities don't have to submit anything. An insider at the Grand Council said some communities were good in submitting reports while others merely sent in their annual report. It leaves the much-talked about "accountability to the people" a little tattered, according to some.

Most of the people interviewed for this story would not go on record or wished to remain anonymous. As one person put it, "the chiefs and communities control 18 out of 20 seats in the Grand Council and they are the ones to decide how much money any of us get. I'm not pissing them off."

Where the Money's *Going*

Entity	Total Amount
Cree Quebec Forestry Board	575,000
Other Forestry Related Expenditures	425,000
Forestry Enhancement Program	500,000
Environmental Review - Rupert	350,000
Limited Partnership Expenses	200,000
Agreement Implementation Costs	1,000,000
Cree Mineral Board	320,000
Cree Development Corporation	350,000
Cree Trappers Association	2,000,000
Cree Outfitting & Tourism Ass.	300,000
Cree Native Arts & Crafts Ass.	200,000
James Bay Advisory & Evaluating Committee	80,000
Protection & Enhancement of Cree Rights	750,000
Aanischaaukamikw Center	100,000
Youth Council	100,000
Elders Council	100,000
Elders & Youth Coordination Fund	50,000
Cree Communication Society	100,000
Washaw Sibi Association	200,000
Whapmagoostui Isolation Factor	300,000
Total	**8,000,000**

Community	Total Amount
Chisasibi	$8,497,000
Wemindji	$4,450,000
Waskaganish	$6,000,000
Mistissini	$5,186,450
Waswanipi	$5,550,000
Eastmain	$2,500,000
Ouje-Bougoumou	$2,500,000
Nemaska	$2,500,000
Whapmagoostui	$2,700,000
Total	**39,883,450**
Community Centres	13,114,000
Heritage	10,500,000
Grand Total	**71,497,450**

Best Education Story - QCNA

1st Place Steve Bonspiel

Judges comments: "Steve Bonspeil's account of 'Cree-ating' new words gets to the essence of education- Elders and younger generations working together to teach each other. The idea, and the story about it, are beautiful."

How do you say pancreas in Cree?

School board and linguists collaborate to Cree-ate new words

By Steve Bonspiel

Have you ever wondered how to say liver or pancreas in Cree? How about insulin? Those new terms will be in circulation within the next short while thanks to a program sponsored by the Cree Health Board.

The resolution to invent new words was passed by the CHB with the recommendation and help of Dr. Faisca Richer of Public Health. They worked closely with the Cree School Board's Cree language staff, linguists and medical professionals, to come up with 50 new Cree words, created in Val d'Or February 24-25.

"I think it's going to give confidence to people who go to the hospital," said George Diamond, Program Officer for Healthy and Safe communities with the Cree Health Board. "The translators will be able to translate better what their ailment would be. The elders will be able to understand what it is because of the translation.

"We concentrated on diabetes because that's the most prevailing disease that we have in the Cree Nation," Diamond added. "We wanted to translate words or come up with new words associated with diabetes."

Diamond's job, and that of Public Health nurse Louise Pedneault, was to tell people the meaning of the word or find out the medical terms and in what context the word was used.

Pedneault added, "My role was to explain the medical words like pancreas, insulin and the glands so they can describe it in Cree."

Community Health Representative Emily Sam said the process was informative and a barrel of laughs.

"The elders had some of these words already and we didn't know," she chuckled. "We had a hard time on the pancreas, we had to give them a drawing or show them where it is exactly. When I first started they gave me two words for it. I kept showing them pictures and finally we figured it out. We had a lot of fun at the workshop, it's very important to preserve our language."

Diamond hopes that in the future, words associated with other entities in the community are translated as well. The problem right now, he says, is lack of funding.

"If Cree entities want to enhance the language in the work place I think there should be a place where they can get funding," he said. "I don't know from which organization they would [get funding], but I think the Cree culture and language is very, very important to many people in the Cree Nation."

This was the first time people sat down and came up with new words, he noted. "We're trying to enrich and enhance our Cree language and culture."

Diamond said that the creation of new words was made possible though the flexibility and dedication of the Cree Programs personnel.

"This was a special case, working with the Cree language people. They had a meeting and we sort of piggy backed on them and added two days so we could do this terminology workshop," he said.

The team worked closely with Marie Odile Junker, a linguist at Carleton University. "We tried mixing up the dialects, as well as to try with small groups and big groups," she said. "The community health representatives were essential in explaining the words and helping to come up with new ones."

She also credited the elders, who were essential in the process. Their invaluable input ensured that everything ran smoothly.

"It's one thing to develop words but it's quite another for them to be adopted by the people who speak," Junker stressed. "So the next phase is to do a mix of education and community outreach. We'll see what kind of feedback we're going to have."

Junker explained to the Nation that there are three ways to create new words. The first is borrowing from another language and incorporating it into Cree. Much the same way that French speakers in Quebec say "tires" with a French accent when they could just as easily say pneus.

The second way is to give a new meaning to an existing word. Junker cited as an example the word iskuteu, which means fire and also takes on the meaning of battery and sparkplug. The third way is to create a new word using the rules of the language.

Junker has been working on www.eastcree.org, a website dedicated to the Cree language. Because of this, new words such as "browse" and "mouse" have already been incorporated into the Cree language.

"I think it's very important if you want a language to survive that the language be able to move into describing new realities," she said. "Every language has in itself the power to create new words."

The words that were created are going to be discussed on the radio and are also available in the terminology forum on www.eastcree.org.

"The new words are not being forced on anyone, they are up for discussion and don't appear in the official Cree dictionary," said Junker. "Right now they are on the web so people can make suggestions and comments. Only time will tell if people end up using them."

CCNA- Best Evironmental Writing- 2nd Place
QCNA- Best Investigative or In-depth Reporting- 2nd Place
Will Nicholls and Lyle Stewart

CCNA Judged by Jim Mosher

Judges comments: "Second goes to Lyle Stewart and Will Nicholls of Quebec's the Nation, which serves the James Bay region. Editor in chief Nicholls and Stewart teamed up to cover the waterfront in an investigative series about mines that have contaminated the watershed around the Ouje-Bougoumou and Chibougoumou regions.
The writing was superb: chrisp, unslanted, relentless in presentation."

QCNA Judged by Jim Cornall

Judges comments: "What makes all three entries stand out is that they clearly meet the criteria of the category fully. All three winners entries were detailed and thorough, with as many sources as possible sought and quoted. Also, all covered important subjects that required more than a simple story."

We added this one as it won second place against community newspapers in Quebec and across Canada.

Poisoned
Quebec studies confirm fears that waters near O-J are heavily contaminated by mine tailings

By Will Nicholls and Lyle Stewart Photos courtesy Chris Covel and Neil Diamond

The report

Two Quebec environment ministry studies obtained by the Nation clearly show that Ouje-Bougoumou Crees have a reason to be concerned over mining contamination of local waterways. What's more, despite promising O-J residents quick action on the issue, the reports show that the Quebec government has been aware of the problem since 1998.

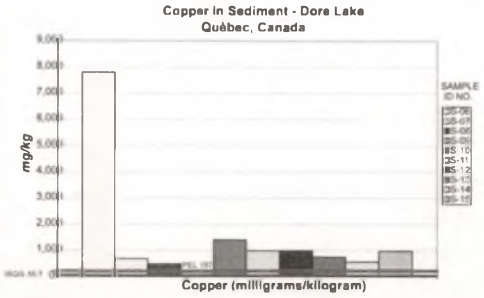
The two documents, entitled Metal Concentrations in Fish and Sediments in lakes aux Dores, Chibougamau, Obatogamau and Waconichi in 2002 (by Denis Laliberte) and Metal, PCB, Dioxin and Furan Concentrations in Fish and Sediments from Four Lakes in Northern Quebec in 2001 (by Denis Laliberte and Gaby Tremblay), were obtained from the office of U.S. Senator John Sununu (R-New Hampshire). Senator Sununu had demanded the information in a letter to Quebec Premier Jean Charest last spring.

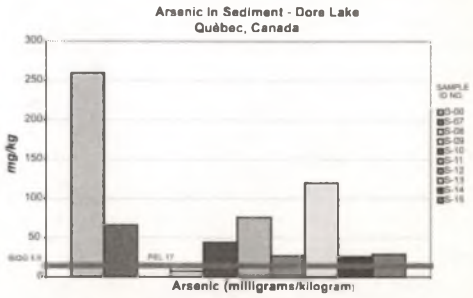
Sample after sample recorded in the studies show readings for dangerous heavy metals to be many times higher than that allowed for under Canadian law. For example, arsenic readings in samples from Dore Lake were as high as 44 times the allowable limit under the Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines of the Protection of Aquatic Life (commonly known as the ISQG line).

The Probable Effect Level (or PEL) for many toxins are also routinely exceeded. The PEL line displays a reading at which the sample is extremely toxic and should not even be touched with bare skin.

In all, 18 out of 26 samples exceeded ISQG for arsenic, 20 of the 26 copper samples exceeded ISQG, 18 for nickel, six for lead and 15 for zinc. Only 17 samples were taken for chromium (with five in excess) and cadmium (15 exceeded).

No sampling was done for cyanide even though it is used extensively in gold mining. The Grand Council report prepared by Covel and Masters documented cyanide contamination in fish, sediment, tailings and water.





The history

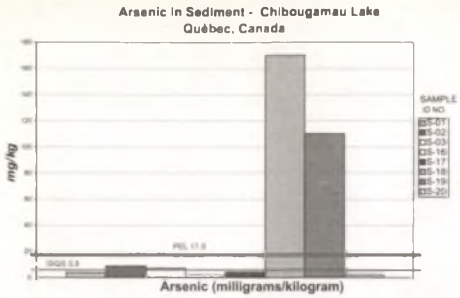
This story started five years ago, but its roots go back to the 1950s with the arrival of mining firms in the Chibougamau region. It was in 2000, long after Ouje-Bougoumou residents had begun asking game wardens and the government if anything was wrong with the fish and were told nothing was amiss, that someone finally listened.

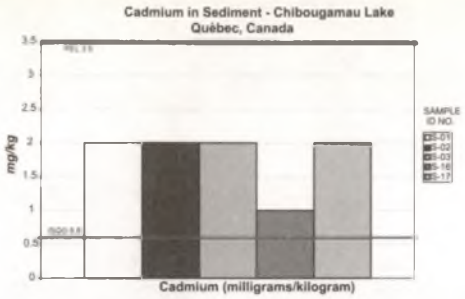
That someone was Christopher Covel, an American geologist, who happened to be visiting the area. Someone asked him if mine tailings could make fish sick. He took some sediment samples home for analysis. What he discovered shocked and frightened him. The levels of cancer-causing heavy metal toxins leaching into the environment from mine tailings far exceeded allowable limits.

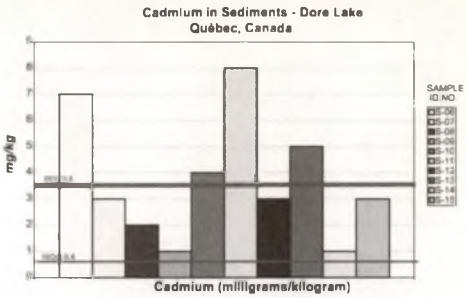
At that point, the Grand Council of the Crees hired Covel and New Hampshire scientist Roger Masters to carry out a full-scale study of the problem. Covel and Masters delivered their report in September 2001. It found sediment and water readings for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury and zinc to be far above allowable limits set by the federal government. They also found readings for barium, cyanide, selenium and silver, which have no allowable limit. All these substances are toxic to human health. Not surprisingly, Covel and Masters also found metal contamination in fish and human head hair of the Ouje-Bougoumou Crees.

"It makes the Love Canal look like a dirty back yard," Covel told the Montreal Gazette at the time.

Some, however, questioned the results and complained that Covel was "grandstanding." So the Grand Council brought in other scientists, Eric Dewailly of the Quebec Environment Ministry and







McMaster University professor Evert Nieboer, to oversee his work. Their report, funded mainly by the Quebec Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute, said that there might be a problem with the fish and some animals but humans were safe. An environmental study was promised at the same time, but until now, has not been seen.

The late Joseph Shecapio-Blacksmith, Ouje-Bougoumou's Environmental Officer at the time, was unconvinced that there was no danger to human health. He was doing everything he could to try to get the problems of heavy metal toxins from mine tailings publicized.

Shecapio-Blacksmith met with New Hampshire Senator John Sununu, a Republican. It would be the breakthrough he was looking for, but sadly he would never see it come to fruition before he died in November 2003. Sununu, impressed with Shecapio-Blacksmith and the response of his New Hampshire constituents, would take this issue to heart.

Thus, in a letter to Quebec Premier Jean Charest earlier this year, Sununu requested a long-overdue Quebec government study that was supposed to settle this issue once and for all. Documents that the Crees of Ouje-Bougoumou were promised over a year and a half ago were sent to his office. A call to his Washington, DC, office resulted in those documents and more being forwarded to the Nation.

The results are elegant. As the Quebec government report's authors write, "For sediments, the arsenic, copper, and zinc levels measured by Covel and Masters (2001) were similar to those measured in the study."

There is anger over the fact this vital information had been withheld from the people it most affected, the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree. Calls to the appropriate Quebec government ministries have not been returned at press time, but we hope to have answers from them in future issues of the Nation.

The lakes included in the study are heavily used by Cree communities for sustenance fishing and by other residents of the James Bay region for sport fishing. In particular, Chibougamau and Dore lakes, which are home to many mining sites, host significant trout holes along the retaining walls of mine tailings sites.

The levels of arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, copper, chromium, iron, nickel, cobalt and zinc found near mining operations in the region strongly suggest that the gold and copper mines are responsible for the contamination.

Laliberte writes that on Riviere Nemenjiche, a tributary draining a mining site, "the differences observed [in] downstream and upstream sediments suggest that this industry could be responsible for increases in metal levels."

For Chibougamau Lake, Laliberte found copper concentrations 6.6 times the Probable Effect Level, which is the level that practically guarantees aquatic organisms will be contaminated. In Waconichi Lake, however, which is far from mining activity and was thus used as a control lake, very low metal levels were found.

The Quebec government documents show the Quebec Environment Ministry has been collecting data since 1998. The data revealed heavy metal contamination in excess of PEL up to 3.5 kilometres downstream from the tailings. The reports noted that a minimum of 40.6 cubic tonnes of contaminated waste had been dumped into Chibougamau and Dore lakes and that dumping continues today.

The 2002 document states, "These levels exceed the criteria of probable effect and represent a potential risk for aquatic organisms," for the Nemenjiche River and Obatagamau Lakes.

Furthermore, the same study notes that, "The analyses of mine tailings taken from the Eaton Bay, Copper Rand, and Principale waste sites show that concentrations of the above metals (with the exception of cadmium which was not measured) were all present at levels likely to be a source of contamination for the aquatic environment."

The Quebec government documents, as chilling as they are, are incomplete. Senator Sununu's office analyzed the documents and found that the six most contaminated sites were not even tested for chromium, cadmium, selenium, strontium and beryllium.

Public health alerts over eating fish from these waters have been issued in the past. The James Bay regional health and social services

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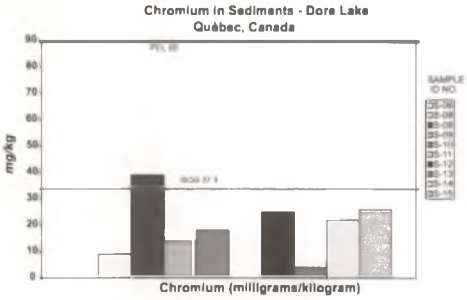

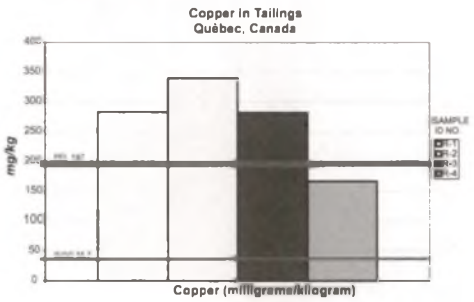

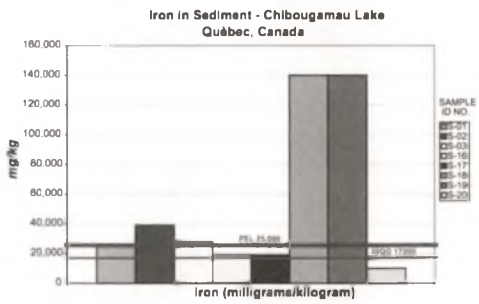

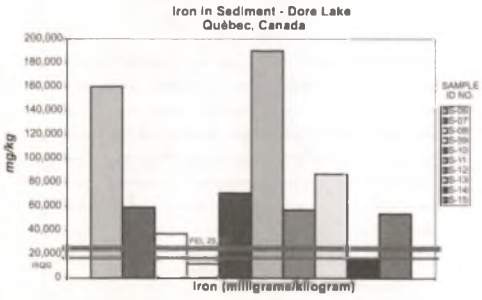

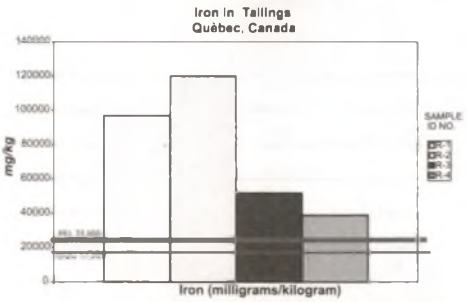

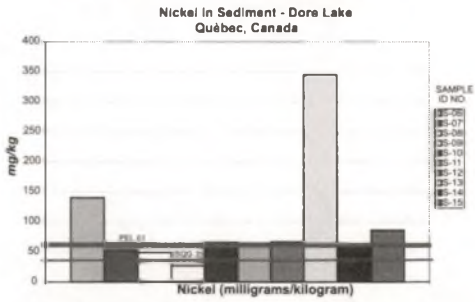

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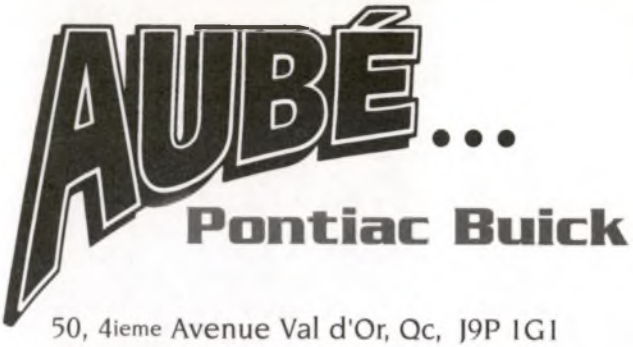

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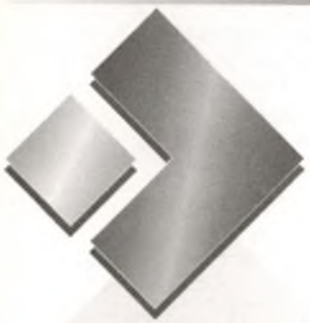

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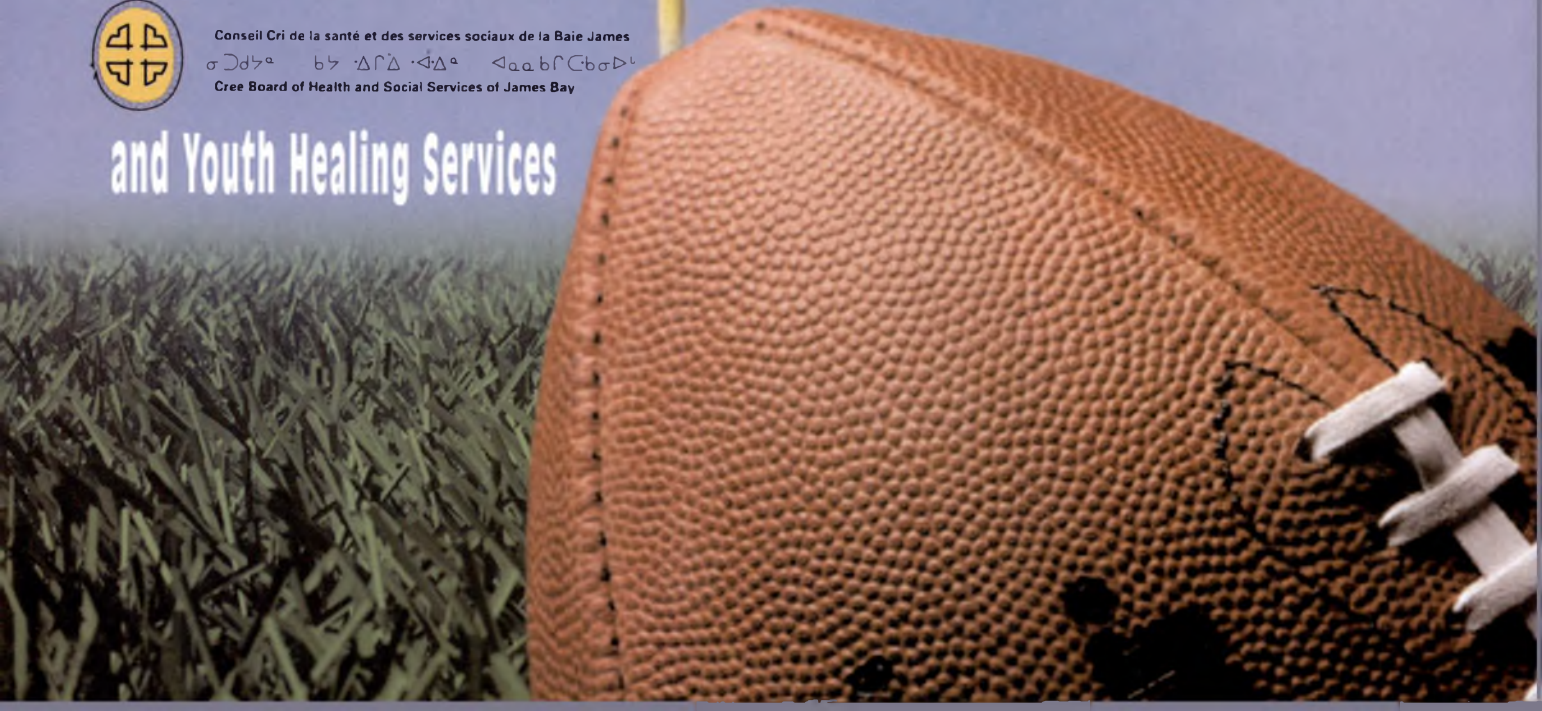

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ELECTION

FOR THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD

TO VOTE

ELECTION DATE: JULY 12, 2006

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE NOMINATION FORMS TO THE OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFFICER SHALL BE 30 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION DAY, JUNE 12, 2006 AT 5 PM.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

For more information
on these elections, please contact
Kenny Loon (613) 867-7089

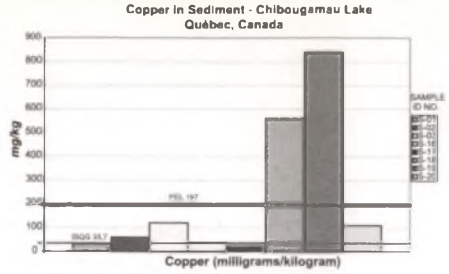
Poisoned ***continued from page 17***

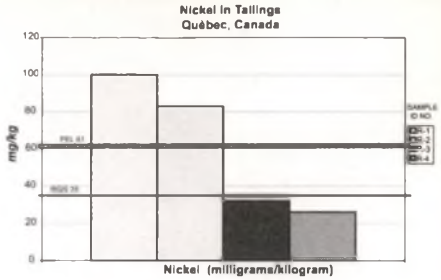
centre warned against consuming fish from Dore and Chibougamau lakes in 2001, advising against consumption of more than two fish a month of lake trout longer than 50 cm or weighing over 1 kg, walleye longer than 50 cm or northern pike longer than 70 cm. It also warned pregnant women and children under six against eating any trout or northern pikes larger than these sizes.

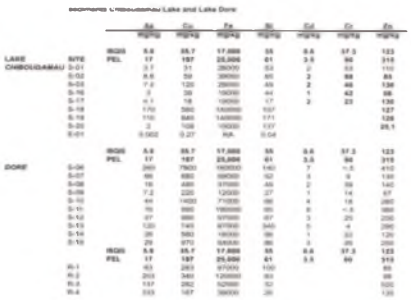
Cover-up?

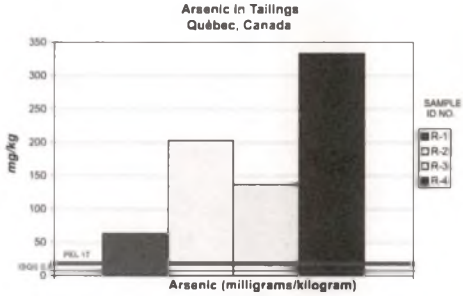
The co-author of the 2001 report that originally raised concerns over mining contamination near Ouje-Bougoumou is suggesting the Quebec government has covered up evidence that the Crees are at risk from toxic heavy metals.

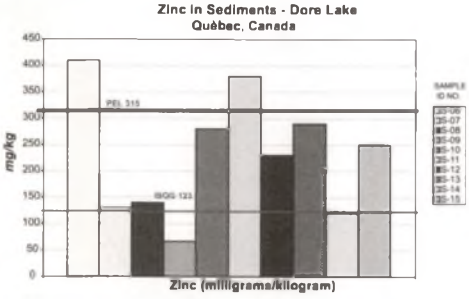
Dartmouth College Professor Roger Masters of New Hampshire has examined the studies sent to Senator Sununu's office. In a press release, he says the content "raises serious problems consistent with an attempt to cover-up the extent of harm."

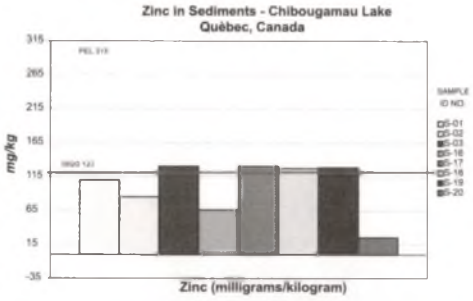


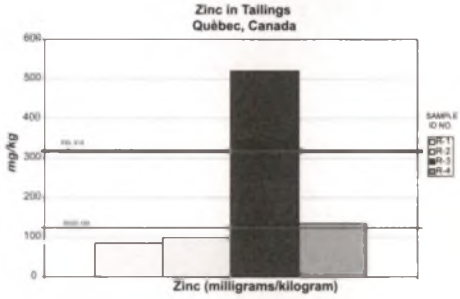












Cree Language in Cyberspace

Although many Cree homes now have computers and are connected to the Internet, many people may still be unaware that we have a website dedicated to the Cree language. The Cree Programs staff of the Cree School Board and Dr. Marie-Odile Junker of Carleton University in Ottawa, have been developing www.eastcree.org as a home for the Cree language in cyberspace.

Not only do you have the choice of browsing the website in English or French, but you can also read the site in Southern and/or Northern Cree. But in order for you to browse in Cree syllabics, you'll need to have the fonts installed in your computer. These are available in the Resources section of the website for both Mac and PC computers. With the fonts installed on your computer, you can also create your own documents on your computer using the Cree syllabics fonts.

The online dictionary is very practical for those interested in finding definitions or to see correct spelling. The dictionary is provided in both dialects. It has several search options to look for the begininning, middle or endings of Cree words. Both syllabics and roman orthographies are available. There are also spelling manuals, Cree spelling lessons, read-along stories, grammar information and also the electronic Cree dictionary which you can download to your computer. There is a Forum for those working with the Cree language, to add new words or to suggest corrections to the definitions for the online dictionary. Over 2,500 names spelled in Cree are also available in the Forum.

One very important part of the website is the section with the recordings of Cree Elders telling stories and legends. You can listen or even download the stories and legends, some of which have been recorded over 40 years ago, of Elders who have already passed away. The audio recordings are in mp3 format, so it's not different from listening to or downloading music from the Internet. Imagine, listening to our Elders recounting a legend on your iPod!

The website is still undergoing development and is constantly being updated with old and new words, dictionary definitions, and audio files of stories and legends added to the list. The French-Cree version of the dictionary will be available soon, as well as a complete set of interactive lessons to learn to read and write Cree syllabics.

We've seen other First Nations people lose their language here in Canada. Our language is very much alive and that is something for us to treasure. Today, we have the opportunity to use technology to preserve and develop our language because this will also be a source of pride for future generations.

Note: Some summer jobs are available for Cree students to work on the eastcree.org project. For information contact Prof. Junker: mojunker@ccs.carleton.ca

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YAMAHA POLARIS

Edith Cloutier nominated Knight of the Ordre national du Québec

Val-d'Or, June 1st, 2006_ This Thursday, Premier of Quebec Jean Charest announced the nomination of Mrs. Edith Cloutier, Executive-Director of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre and President of the Regroupment des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Quebec, as Knight of the Ordre national du Québec. She becomes the second person in Abitibi-Témiscamingue to receive this prestigious honour.

The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre personnel and Board Members are extremely proud of the distinction awarded to a woman who, for more than seventeen years now, has been totally dedicated to the well-being of First Nations in Val-d'Or, Quebec and Canada. With her contagious enthusiasm, she motivates her team and successfully conducts many important projects that make the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre a proactive organisation, always at the forefront of the needs of the clientele it serves, and a leader in the enhancement of relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. The values promoted by the Friendship Centre describe her well: commitment, respect, integrity, generosity and mutual aid.

Mrs. Cloutier will receive the insignia of the Knight of the Ordre national du Québec from Premier Jean Charest during an official ceremony next June 20, in Quebec City.

In the Mailbox

Subject: Dreams come true...
Feedback: Great article indeed... Thanks for letting everyone know about this great cause. Hope to see someone from the Nation at the golf tournament!
Marc-Andre Beaudoin

Subject: Trade with China or Pact with the Devil?

Feedback: I recently read an article regarding the importing/exporting of goods between the Crees and the Chinese. I was apalled that we, as Crees, would e ven consider this as a viable business option. I understand the need to diversify our current economic base. But at what cost?

How many times have we cried out to the international community to empathize and intervene on our behalf when we, as Eeyouch, feel that our human rights have been slighted by the Federal and Provincial governments. Yet we are willing to turn a blind eye to the fact that countless Chinese citizens continue to be muted by a government intent on fattening and lining the pockets of party leaders.

Are we willing to fund Chinese sweatshops? What about the gross violations of human rights abuses in China? Are we willing to turn a blind eye to this all in the name of making a buck? I guess we are. We've already trampled underfoot our own principles

and values by signing the Paix des Braves.

I've heard it said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. It seems we've jumped up front with the devil and are now ready to take over the driving ourselves.

Derek McLeod

Subject: Solo exhibition - Glenna Matoush
Feedback: Requicken: Glenna Matoush
15 May – 27 August 2006
Curated by Ryan Rice, Aboriginal Curator in Residence

Born on the Rama Reserve in Ontario, Ojibway artist Glenna Matoush is a

resident of Montreal, where she has long been active in the arts and

Aboriginal communities. Trained as a printmaker but now working primarily as a painter, Matoush's expressionistic style moves fluidly between the figurative and the abstract.

Matoush's work is informed directly by nature; she often collages birch

bark, leaves, earth and stones into her paintings. Her work addresses

contemporary social and political Aboriginal issues, including the

environmental destruction she has witnessed in Cree territory in Northern Quebec, the despair caused by AIDS, and the reclamation of culture. The exhibition features new paintings by Matoush, accompanied by paintings borrowed from public and private collections.

The concept of requickening (to reanimate or to give new life) is key to engaging with Matoush's paintings, for they are infused with hope and with a sense of her coming to terms with past injustices in order to move to higher ground. Ryan Rice is CUAG's Aboriginal Curator in Residence, a position funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Ryan Rice

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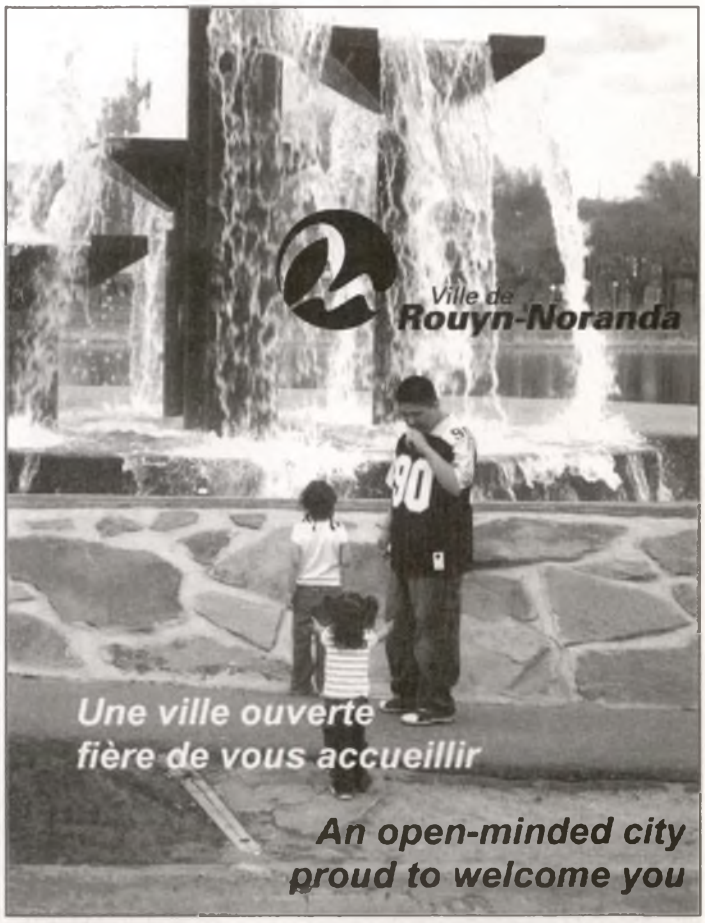

SCREEN SHOTS

Summer Movie Lineup – June

By The Shadow Critics

The Break Up (June 2) Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn star in this comedy about a couple who break up but still are living together in their jointly-owned condo. Neither one wants to leave, so as they go through the process of separation and adjustment in their personal lives they torment each other in their living space.

Cars (June 9) This animated movie is one for children who love the Pixar movie series like Finding Nemo. The plot is about a spoiled race car that decides to travel across the country, and ends up in a small town where life is a bit slower paced than he is used to. But while there he learns what friendship and life are all about.

The Lake House (June 16) Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves star in this film about two people who share a magical time-spanning mailbox. They live in the same house but Bullock's character inhabits it two years after Reeves' character lived there. It is billed as a romantic offering for movie-goers this summer, as the two fall in love as they send each other love letters via this reality-defying mailbox.

The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (June 16) This film builds upon the popularity of The Fast and the Furious, the original Vin Diesel and Paul Walker movie about street racing. The plot focusses on an American who moves to Japan and gets drawn into a life of street racing Tokyo-style – no treads on your tires. It's called drift racing as you have to learn to judge how much your car will slide around corners.

Nacho Libre (June 16) Jack Black returns this summer with another comedy. In this one, he plays a cook in a Catholic orphanage, and like most residents from the area of Mexico this story is set in, he has a second religion – wrestling. While shooting in Mexico, the crew actually had to be careful not to offend the locals while making this comedy. Black's character becomes a local masked wrestler in order to provide much-needed food for the orphans. It is a risk by the filmmakers to make this comedy outside of familiar North American culture. Audiences will have to decide on whether Jack Black, who is likely one of the only stars you will recognize in the film, can pull this off.

Click (June 23) The plot is simple, the main character (Adam Sandler) is introduced a universal remote control which enables him to control the world around him. Sandler can pause things when he likes them, fast forward through parts of life which he doesn't like, or mute people who annoy him. This kind of story – where ordinary people get extraordinary powers, and use or abuse them to figure out what is important to them – is very familiar. Don't forget the writers of this movie also gave us the Jim Carrey comedy Bruce Almighty.

Superman Returns (June 30) The plot is simple: Superman returns after he has been absent from Planet Earth for five years. He comes back to find Lois Lane a single mom, and his old nemesis Lex Luther still up to no good. The filmmakers tried to keep to the original Superman movies when Christopher Reeves was the flying superhero. The major change is the cast and the retelling of this story. Like the mega-popular TV series Smallville, it is set in modern times. The question is whether Brandon Routh can deliver what Tom Welling and an all-star WB cast has done to popularize this tale for a new generation of fans.

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Hairdressing	1455	Oct. 2006	Oct. 2007

For more information please contact;

- Nancy Mianscum, Administrative Technician at the SRVTC at (819) 753-4040 (ext 223)
- The Education Consultant of your community

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www.cscree.qc.ca, click on "Fall 2005 Grand Opening" then on "Programs" to access the registration form.

You can fax your registration form to Nancy Mianscum at (819) 753-2640

For your allowances for these programs, please see your CHRD officer in your community before you leave for Waswanipi.

*******DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS 60 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE PROGRAM*******

Father's Day 2006

Dear Dad,

I miss you and I want you to know that I love you very much. I chose to write to you today because, after all these years I need to let you know how I feel about how we became to be. I was still in primary-elementary school when I came home one summer from residential school down south. You see we were separated when we first went off to school, my sister Kitty and my stepbrother Charles. We were in the same school but we hardly talked to each other. I noticed that one particular summer, that my sister Kitty and I had the same last name, which was Mianscum. My two stepbrothers, Charles and Noah, had a different last name – Jolly.

I asked mom why this was and she told me that you had died when I was just a baby. Cree culture and tradition back then was to marry off widows so that they and their surviving children would stand a better chance in surviving a world that was at times very cruel. Harvesting the land, I understand, was very difficult and many families did not make it. Mom made sure we were going to survive and I heard some wonderful stories of how her strength and skill out on the land equalled that of many men so as to ensure that Kitty and I would survive.

Mom eventually remarried. Dad, let me say that my stepfather looked after me very well right up to his death four years ago. I was satisfied with the response she had given me; at least it explained why we siblings had two different last names.

As I grew into my teens and grasped knowledge as it was being delivered in school, I knew that for every child born into this world the government and its agencies kept a record of the birth. They noted the date of birth, the place of birth, the name of the child and the names of the parents of the child. I also knew that for every person who dies, a certificate is made out announcing the death. The name of the deceased and the date of death are recorded and it is signed by a medical officer.

Dad, I wanted closure. I needed to find a death certificate. If I couldn't find a death certificate then that meant that it could be possible that you are alive out there, somewhere. I wondered from accepting your passing to no, not yet. I even wrote a song about you and I hope to be able to sing it to you someday.

Everything I did in life that could have meaning I never finished because there was this void that bothered me, I was not a complete person. I got sick in 1982 and the medical personnel in Mistissini wanted to know what you had died of and that whatever it was I may have it. I got very concerned and I asked our district office of Indian Affairs in Quebec City to send me the list and addresses of hospitals that Mistissini patients were sent to in the early 1950s. I received the list and I proceeded to write to all the hospitals on the list. I gave them your name, your community origin and Band number, and I asked them for the cause of your death.

I really did not expect a reply, but lo and behold a response came from Hôtel Dieu Hospital in Roberval. The reply came on April 12, 1983 and it stated that you had been released from that hospital on October 3, 1953, in relatively good health. I have been searching for you ever so discreetly ever since that day.

I want you to know that I love you, and I want to share my journey with you – my disappointments, failures and my achievements. I have so much to offer you. I would like to hear about your journey as well. I'm sure between you and I, we can produce volumes. This is a special father's day for me because I finally got the will and strength to write to you.

I love you Dad and Happy Father's Day.

Your son,
William Mianscum

Watch for William's journey in future editions in *the Nation*.

June 21st

is National Aboriginal Day!

A time to reflect and be proud of our culture and traditions. A time to celebrate our strong Nation.

From the Chairman, Director General and the staff of the Cree School Board.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

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DRAGMEDIA

Jonathan Lalonde
Graphiste

Tél.:(819)663-1297
Page:(819)779-3707

jonathan_lalonde@yahoo.ca

In Memorial

This letter follows the article that was published in the April 28, 2006, issue about the tragedy that struck my family. On April 7, while traveling to Montreal to see our son play hockey, my wife Maggie Capassisit lost her life in an automobile accident.

I received a first call from my brother Roger who was in Ouje-Bougoumou at the time. I was in Val-d'Or with my two daughters, Meeaubin and Tyra. The first call came in at about 10:45 am to inform me that there had been an accident. At the time Roger did not know how serious the accident was. Later in the morning he called my brother Paul telling him that my wife had lost her life in the accident.

After the shock of getting the news, Roger called me back to see if I wanted the team to continue on to Montreal. I told him that they should because they had worked hard all winter to get to this point. I found no reason for them not to go. He asked me what I wanted Joey to do. I told him to let Joey go if he wanted too. Joey chose to go on with the team. I also informed Roger that even if they turned around, they would not be able to do anything here in Ouje-Bougoumou. I did request that the team be at the services because I wanted the team to be the pall bearers.

Maggie was always supporting our children in whatever they did. She was closely involved with their education also. She always wanted them to succeed in what they chose to do.

Maggie was a person who preached by example. When I first met her, she asked me if she could go back to school. I told her that she did not need my permission to do that. So she went back to adult education to get her high school diploma. At this time she was 25 years old. During this time she had our two sons and she was carrying Meeaubin when she graduated. Later on she went back to school to get her Native Early Childhood Certificate. She followed this course for 18 months in Ouje-Bougoumou.

Following this course she went to work at the Childcare Centre. She worked there for close to three years as an educator then as the director. She left the Childcare Centre following the death of her father. She had already lost her mother 18 months earlier. She left the daycare so that she could undergo two major operations that she had put off for some time. She needed to have both hips replaced. These operations were carried out in Amos. In between both operations she went back to work at the school as a substitute teacher. This is where she fell in love with teaching. At this time she also began a university course at McGill. This course was in Cree Literacy. She really wanted to complete this course because it was giving her the tools she needed to better promote her culture and heritage. She completed the course about three weeks before the accident.

Maggie was a very loving and caring person, not only to my family and hers, but to all who knew her. She opened our home to over 100 young people who needed a place to stay or live. We were a boarding home for the Cree School Board as well as a foster home for the Cree Health Board. This started when we got married and is still going on today because she would have wanted to have it this way.

Maggie always tried hard to see the positive side of all situations. She always wanted to promote positive thinking in all of our youth. She was a strong believer in our youth. She always told our children "If I can do it, then so can you. I believe in you."

Maggie was also very devoted to her walk with God. She always said to our children to pray if they needed anything. She always told our children that her relationship with God always left her feeling good about herself and her life. She never forced her beliefs on anyone because she believed that a person had to accept God on their own. She often shared her beliefs because she believed that God could help anyone through anything.

My children and I have lost a wonderful mother, friend and wife. I also feel that the Cree Nation lost a very good person who could make positive changes here in Ouje-Bougoumou and within the Cree Nation itself.

Maggie always loved living. She enjoyed watching our children grow up. She also enjoyed watching all other children grow. She was always very proud when the children were learning. To her it was mission accomplished.

One of her favorite things to do was to go the arena and watch the children play. She loved to watch our children play. She would always encourage both teams. We traveled all over the place just so that our children could play. We also traveled with children from Ouje-Bougoumou to different tournaments. We started doing this when Joey turned four years old. After a while the boys began calling her "Our Hockey Mom." She always loved this title. She felt that the children always trusted in her. I like to think that she richly deserved this title.

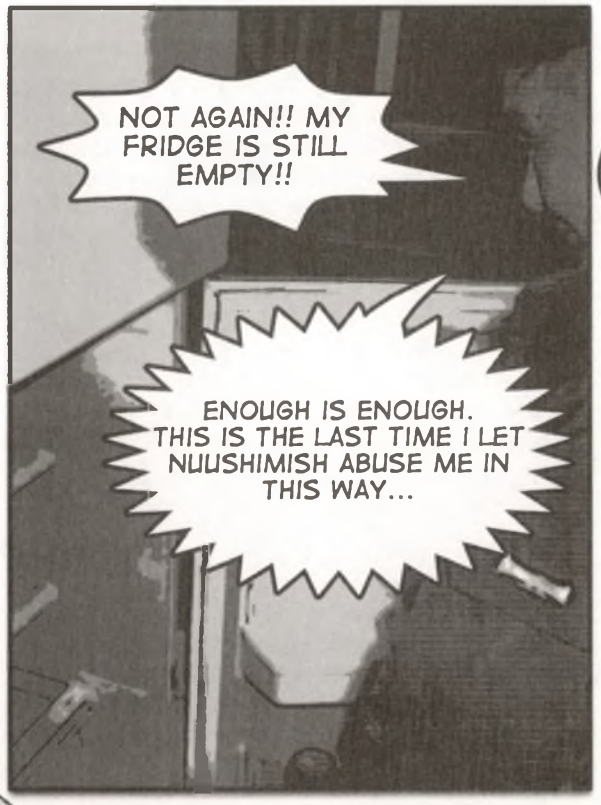
On the day of her service in Ouje-Bougoumou, the church was filled right up. I felt very blessed to see that I wasn't alone in saying good bye to her. During the latter part of the service I took a walk outside just to get some fresh air. I was blown away by the amount of people who could not get into the church and who chose to stay outside so that they could be part of the service.

To all of those that I did not get to see during the service, I want to take this time to thank you all for you support and prayers.

Maggie and I spoke about living and dying with our children, she told our children not to grieve too long because she felt that life was too precious to waste. She wanted us to Rejoice in the fact that she was gone home to be with God and her parents and other relatives.

So with that in mind I wish you would find a memory that you shared with Maggie and hold on to it until a smile comes to you. When this happens then your grieving will be done and your healing will have begun. And remember REJOICE I SAY AGAIN REJOICE.

Real Lacroix
Joey Capassisit Lacroix
Patrick Capassisit Lacroix
Meeaubin Capassisit Lacroix
Tyra Capassisit
Linda Capassisit
Lisa Capassisit



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Prevent Elder Abuse in Eeyou Istchee!

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Sometimes a great notion

by Xavier Kataquapit

There is lots of excitement today. We have spent the past week cribbing an old building across the street from our home. It is one of the original two-story houses built decades ago when the town was just a small settlement. Dad is leading a work crew consisting of my older brothers and myself. I am too young to do much of the manual work and heavy lifting. Instead, I have been operating the John Deere tractor. I am 13 years of age. We are getting ready to move a house.

We are setting up two giant pine logs 40 feet in length under the building to act as a sleigh that the house will sit on. The pine logs are pushed, pulled and lifted into place to one side of the building. Dad yells orders while standing in the mud the log has churned up. The yard is a mess with tractor-tire marks, upturned soil and our own footprints in the wet clay. It is a grey, overcast day and the rain drizzles down every now and then as we work. The two-foot diameter logs are wrapped in chains that twist and roll the enormous timber into place. The bark rips violently off the trunk as it rubs against the ground and that sends up the sweet scent of fresh pine into the air.

Dad is in his element and yells out orders and cautions us now and then about the dangers of our work. We can't stand there, don't do that, do it this way, give the tractor more gas, come back, go forward. The logs slip into place one at a time under the house and then two shorter and smaller logs are placed on top as cross-braces to complete the sleigh. Large foot-long galvanized steel spikes are driven into the pine with our large sledgehammers. Steel cables are wrapped around the logs at different points where they will be pulled by the band's large caterpillar tracked tractor.

Dad is shouting over the rattle and rumble of the John Deere and the David Brown tractors that are being used to help with the move. One of my older brothers operates a chainsaw and the scream of the two-stroke motor drowns out all the voices around this commotion. We can't hear dad over the machines but we all keep an eye out for his hand gestures, waves and pointing fingers for direction. Amidst the mechanical noises, he is like a conductor directing an orchestra of loggers, tractor drivers and chainsaw operators. As the work becomes dangerous or critical, his gestures turn into full arm waves as he pleads for us to stop whatever life-threatening move we are making.

This scene could be a chapter from a book I am currently reading titled, Sometimes a Great Notion, by Ken Kesey. The problem is that it was real life. My life on the rez. I just never realized someone had written a book that captured what I had experienced.

I picked the book up at the library on the advice of a good friend. After a few long chapters, I was happy to read about scenes, characters and situations that were similar to ones I had lived through in the north. The book is about a family of loggers living in the U.S. Pacific Northwest in Oregon. I could easily picture the scenes of lumberjacks cutting down trees, grappling them with cable to pull them into place, clearing brush away from the work while shouting out yeah or no over the noise of engines, tractors or chainsaws. I could feel the lumberjack's exhaustion, muscle aches and soreness from hard and dangerous work in the woods. It was easy for me to envision the tough, fun-loving and living on the edge lumberjacks. The scene was one I had lived many times in Attawapiskat.

The book is having a great impact on me. I easily relate to the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with a hard day's work but I also recognize the tense relationships and situations depicted in the book. I knew what those characters were feeling. I could identify with their feelings of restlessness, uneasiness and fear amidst the constant chaos, driven attitudes and danger. Kesey also manages to convey the goodness and the earthiness of his characters, who touch me with their vulnerability, humour, kindness and anger.

I can hardly wait to get back to the book. It feels good to be able to really understand what Kesey was trying to do with it. I am well into the read at this point and I imagine that there will be few surprises for me as I roam through the pages. It is as though I am living this life once again on the steep banks of the Attawapiskat River where the water rushes by and tall trees fall under the axe and at the end of a chainsaw.

Our Heartfelt congratulations go out to Kim Quinn on her recent achievement; receiving a Master's degree in "Education in Language and Literacy" from the prestigious Harvard University.

Your dream and success is an inspiration to all Cree youth.

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

From the Chairman, Director General and the staff of the Cree School Board.

VILLE DE CHIBOUGAMAU

Nos meilleurs vœux à la nation Cris lors des célébrations, le 21 juin, de la

JOURNÉE NATIONALE DES AUTOCHTONES

de la population de Chibougamau

Our best wishes to the Cree Nation on the occasion of

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

on june 21st, from the population of Chibougamau.

Donald Bubar, maire/mayor
Carole Dumoulin, conseillère
Jerry Poirier, conseiller
Marielle Boudreau, conseillère

Manon Cyr, conseillère
Frank Guillemette, conseiller
Lianne Piquette, conseillère

Beesum Communications

Project Manager job description

Beesum Communications is presently looking for a Project Manager to work from June 2006 to the end of May 2007 (maternity leave).

Are you able to think quickly on your feet? Do you enjoy a quick-paced and challenging job? We are looking for a candidate with an outgoing personality who has the following qualities and skills:

- Excellent English (both written and spoken), French is a definite asset
- Strong skills in organizing, priority setting and task delegation
- Strong problem solving (looking ahead and preparing for and/or avoiding)
- Strong sense of initiative
- Diplomacy and tact - Customer service orientated
- Multi-tasking
- Internet researching is a plus
- Excellent grammar and spelling
- Good understanding of Native communities and services that are generally available.
- CEGEP diploma required
- Work experience within an office is an absolute must

The ideal candidate would have excellent creative writing, editing and proofreading skills (both text and design) as you are required from time to time to produce written material.

As a Project Manager you are to supervise and direct a team of individuals (number varies according to type of project) involved in the graphic design process: couriers, graphic designers, illustrators, translators, writers, editors, photographers, printers. Time is often of the essence and being organized and maintaining an overview of the project is absolutely necessary. It is essential to keep team members as well as the client up-to-date and motivated to maintain project timelines.

You will also be very familiar and comfortable with Word, Outlook, Acrobat pdfs, Windows XP. Basic accounting skills would be an asset as well.

Our work week is 37.5 hrs with a possibility of summer hours after a period of probation.

If you are mature, reliable and able to work at times on your own with minimal supervision please send us your cv for consideration.

Only potential candidates will be contacted for an interview.

Final closing date for cv submissions is:
May 31st, 2006

Please send your cv and cover letter to (preferably by e-mail):

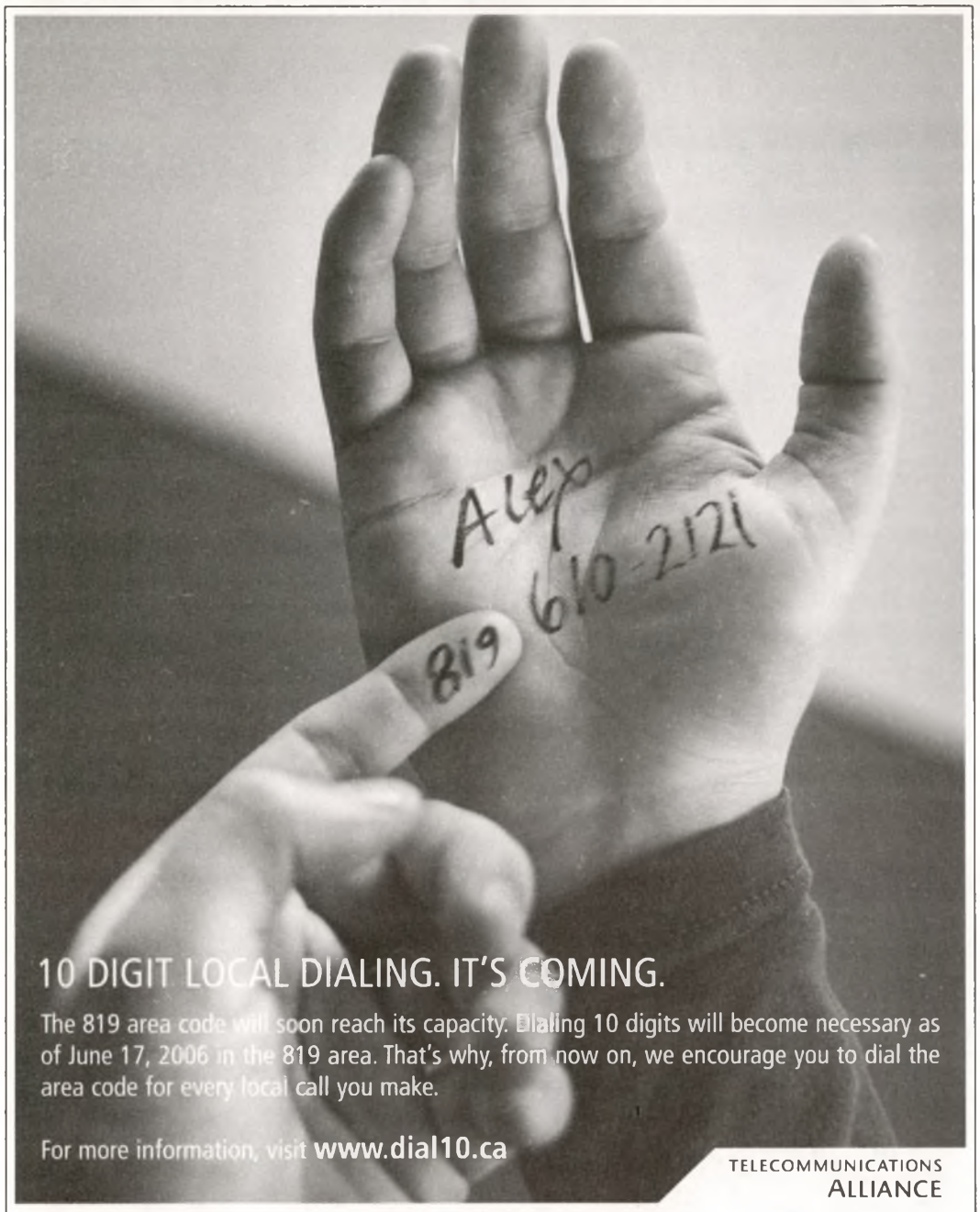
Linda Mohan
Office Manager
Beesum Communications

If sending by fax, please call and advise Ms. Mohan beforehand.

lmohan@beesum-communications.com

514-272-3077 office
514-278-9914 fax

CLASSIFIEDS



10 DIGIT LOCAL DIALING. IT'S COMING.

The 819 area code will soon reach its capacity. Dialing 10 digits will become necessary as of June 17, 2006 in the 819 area. That's why, from now on, we encourage you to dial the area code for every local call you make.

For more information, visit www.dial10.ca

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Avis de demandes relatives à un permis ou à une licence

Toute personne, société ou association au sens du Code civil peut, dans les **trente jours** de la publication du présent avis, s'opposer à une demande relative au permis ou à la licence ci-après mentionnée en transmettant à la Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux un écrit sous affirmation solennelle faisant état de ses motifs ou intervenir en faveur de la demande, s'il y a eu opposition, dans les **quarante-cinq jours** de la publication du présent avis.

Cette opposition ou intervention doit être accompagnée d'une preuve attestant de son envoi au demandeur par tout moyen permettant d'établir son expédition et être adressée à **la Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux, 1, rue Notre-Dame Est, bureau 9.01, Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1B6**

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Québec

& Jade. God bless you all . Love and prayers Mom (Alice Labbe)

Congratulations to Rachel Sam and my Nephew David Lameboy on the birth of their son in Val D'Or on May 18, 2006. Good luck and all the best with your baby boy! Love Alice Labbé

BIRTHDAYS – 101

On June 22nd, the love of my life will be celebrating his 2nd birthday. I love your smile, the way you talk and always explore new things without any fear. I often wish I could be like that. I can't imagine life without you and you will always be my love at first sight boy. The one who will always have a big piece of mum-me's heart. Josiah Thomas Atsynia you have caught the hearts of so many, maybe not as many as you should but you will always be adored. I know I am not the best mum in the world and I don't think I ever will be but I am still trying, so I can be good for you because you deserve so much. Your my sunshine, my heart, my soul, my babes, my everything but most of all my empowerment in life. With Lots of Love and 2tons of kisses Mum-me Loralee Atsynia x0x0x!!!

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BIRTHS – 100

Congradualations to Eric Snowboy and my daughter Jennifer Labbe on the birth of their baby boy Erik Drayden Snowboy (Jr) born on April 29, 2006 in Val D'Or, at 9:55pm., weight 7lbs 14oz. You are truly blessed to have such an adorable and healthy son. His birth has brought love, joy and happiness to us all. In no time, he'll be playing and running around with his older sis Jade. I wish you all the best and take good care of your precious little one. May you share many happy moments with Erik

CLASSIFIEDS

Watchiya! ....I Would Like To Say Happy Belated Birthdays To These Following People Angelo hosum On May 5 2006 ,Varley Mianscum On May 11th, John On May 17th , Kerri-Ann On May 19th, Gerry Bosum On May 19th And Last But Not Least Nigel Mianscum On May 30th Happy Birthday Y'all ! Have Fun On Your Special Day y'all!! Y'all Deserve It!!! Many More to Come.

Ahgoodah ! Lorna.Mianscum..lol And No Partying Varley :P

Birthday wishes going out to our little man.Matthew Shecapio (jr).on may 23.2006

A happy 3rd birthday & we love you very much.Love.mom Charlotte & dad Larry

We would like to wish a belated birthday greetings to our son and brother Alfred Gilpin Jr on May 17 , and to our daughter and sister Alanna Gilpin on May 24 happy birthday to you both we love you very much with love:mom,dad sister Aryssa and brothers Larry and Jonathan.

Happy Father\'s day to my brother Blake Darcy Bosum. sah, your a father of 3 it\'s amazing how much you\'ve grown, I know your married and are a full grown man, but to me you\'ll always be the little boy I grew up with that wanted to follow me every where I went. I love you, and your a wonderful father to your children. I\'m really proud of you, of what you have become, Like father like son, you remind me of dad, dad raised 2 girls and a boy, just as your kids are. \"amazing\". Talk to you later. Olivia Couchees

To my wonderful father Jerry Bosum I could not ask for a better dad then you. You make me laugh and cry at the same time. You are a one of a kind. I love you so much and I miss you, as a child I remember hearing you sing with your Guitar, it was sweet to my ears and still is. Your voice is always comforting. Walking with you at the journey 2003 in the forest just the two of us was the most enjoyable moment of my life with you dad. Happy Father\'s day your the best see you soon. Also Happy Birthday and many more to come. your daughter Olivia Couchees

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my one and only nephew Mario Gilpin who will be celebrating his birthday on June 16,2006.I love you so much and I\'ll always be there for you my handsome nephew.Love always from your auntie Jenny Gilpin. xoxoxo

My brother Mario Gilpin will be celebrating his birthday on June 16, 2006.Wishing you a happy birhday and many more to come. With love always your sister Angel xoxox

On June 16, 2006 our son Mario Gilpin will be celebrating his 3rd birthday.We want it to wish you happy birthday and many more birthdays to come.We love you so much and always will. Enjoy your special day.Love always Mommy & Daddy (Pamela & Lanny)xoxoxo

I would like to wish a happy mother\'s day to the following people.my mom Winnie B. Mom thanks for everything you\'ve done for us. My grandmother Nancy Blacksmith. My sisters.Nancy B.Duff Queenie B.Swallow. Love Charlotte.

Birthday greetings our little man.Matthew Shecapio on may 23rd 2006. Happy 3rd birthday and many more to come.We love you very much.Love mom Charlotte & dad Larry. Happy 3rd birthday to my brother Matthew Shecapio on May 23.2006. Love.ur sis Joy-lynn.

Beautiful Cassie will be turning 4 years old in June. Years are flying by so fast, seems like yesterday you were still that little chubby baby with the chicken pox. I love you so much, you are my smallest Best Friend. Your full of energy and a loud laugh. I hope you enjoy your day. With love Lore

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Darlene Diamond on May 29/06. Hope you enjoy your special day!Happy birthday and many more to come. From,Jonathan & Annie Moar.

I would like to send a bithday greeting to my mommy Darlene Diamond on May 29/06.Happy 22th birthday! MOMMY and many more to come.With love your daughter Alayna Joy Diamond-Moar.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our daughter Annie Florence Joy on May 31/06.Happy 2nd birthday.Your growing too fast you were only 3lbs when you were born.Hope you have fun blowing out your two candles.Once again happy 2nd birthday sweetie! with love Mom&Dad Janice & Elvis.

WEDDINGS – 102

Congratulations to Francine Weistche & Clarke Shecapio for their wedding on June 10, 2006. May you always cherish your special day, as you celebrate with family & friends, once again congratulations, From Alice & Ardelle Shecapio.

GRADUATION – 104

I would like to congratulate my sister Marlene Shecapio for completing her program "Computer Systems Technician" at the Algonquin College, she will be receiving her diploma on June 8, 2006 at the Scotia Bank Center in Kanata, Ontario. Way to go, sis. from Alice.

PERSONAL – 300

Two Eskimo Dogs (Canadian Inuit pure bred dogs) for Sale. 1 female 2 _ yrs old (white markings) 1 male (1yr. 5 months , grey markings) Regular Price $2000.00 .Selling _ Price, the two for $1000.00 . For more infor. Call David Bosum (Chib) (h) 418-745-3629 (c) 418-770-7241.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal now has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out the new website at: www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868 or check out their website at: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.

Official Grand Opening of Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre The official grand opening of the Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre will be held on May 31, 2006 in Waswanipi, Quebec. There will be important guests such as the Grand Chief, Deputy Grand Chief, Minister of Native Affairs, 5 Chiefs, Cree School Board officials, and 5 MELS people.

This letter is to invite you to participate in the first annual,Quebec Native Women's Association Golf Tournament that will take

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

New Horizons for Seniors Program Call for Applications

The Government of Canada is accepting applications for funding under the **New Horizons for Seniors Program**.

The Program funds community-based projects that encourage seniors to continue to play an important role in their community by helping those in need; providing leadership; and sharing their knowledge and skills with others. **The deadline for applications is July 14, 2006.**

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E-mail: HumanResources@ArcticCo-op.com

We thank all applicants. However, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Arctic Co-operatives Limited provides management expertise and business supports to 33 member-owned co-operatives in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. For more information, visit www.ArcticCo-op.com

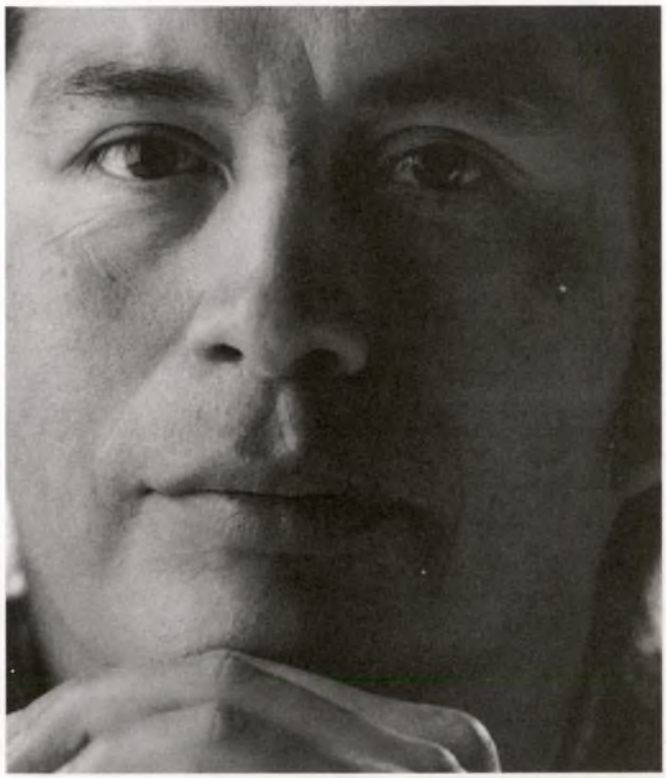
ACL

ADVENTURE

place at the Caughnawaga Golf Club, in Kahnawake on July 7th, 2006. Your continued support and collaboration are instrumental for our success.

As you are probably already aware, Quebec Native Women Inc. (QNW) is a non-profit organization that advocates and supports Aboriginal women in their efforts to ameliorate their living conditions through the promotion of non-violence, justice, health and equality. The goal of this fundraising effort is to enhance the quantity and quality of services that respond to the needs of our members on and off "reserve". It's by giving access to activities, conferences, training and day care services during important events that can empower Aboriginal women to increase their skills and knowledge. Workshop trainings and conferences will increase the support of community circles that in the long term will be beneficial for all Aboriginal people.

Come joing us for a fun filled day and register for our first annual tournament which also coincides with the Kahnawà:ke Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow on July 8th and 9th. Do not hesitate to contact us for more information at info@faq-qnw.org or by phone at (450) 632-0088. Nià:wen, Thank You, Meegwetch, tshinashkumitnau.



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UNSAFE NAVIGATION CONDITIONS

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CONDITIONS DE NAVIGATION NON SÉCURITAIRES

Floating Debris and Submerged Trees in Eastmain 1 Reservoir

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Débris flottants et arbres submergés dans le réservoir Eastmain 1

In 2006, navigating on the reservoir is strongly discouraged

ᐅ 2006, ᓇᒧᐃ ᒥᑑᓐ ᓂᑐᑊᐅᓱᑯᑦ ᐊᑊᐅᓐ ᐅᑌ ᑊᑏ ᐱᐸᒥᐸᓱᑦ

En 2006, il est fortement recommandé de ne pas naviguer sur le réservoir

For more information:

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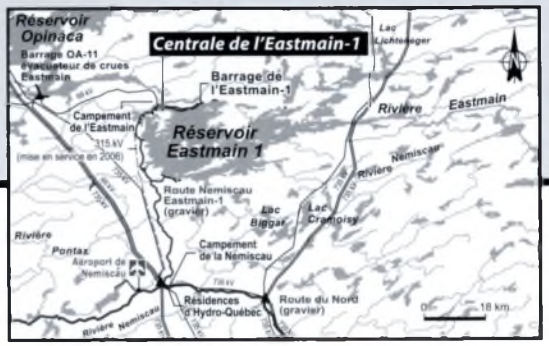
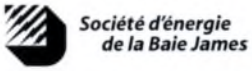
Pour plus d'informations :

(819) 865-2100 ***Extension*** ᐊᒋᓐᒋᓄᓐ poste **4127**





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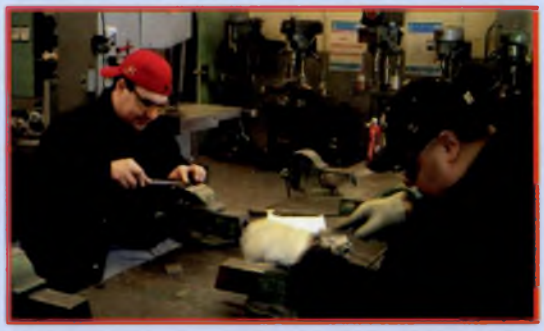
The staff at Niskamoon Corporation would like to wish the people of Eeyou Istchee a happy and proud National Aboriginal Day!

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